

PROCEEDINGS
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A NEW RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD FROM
WESTERN MEXICO.

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A series of Redwings from the State of Nyarit, Mexico, which we have lately examined, seems clearly to indicate the desirability of recognizing the birds of that region as subspecifically distinct from their west-coast congeners to the north. The apparently undescribed form which is here proposed may be known as follows:

Agelaius phoeniceus nyaritensis, subsp. nov.

NYARIT RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD.

Type.—Male adult, No. 157,471, Collection of the Bureau of Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture; Santiago, Nyarit [= Tepic], Mexico; June 14, 1897; collected by E. W. Nelson and E. A. Goldman.

Subspecific characters.—This is one of the series of red-and-buff-shouldered races of *Agelaius*. Bill heavy at base, in this respect approximating *Agelaius phoeniceus fortis*, but longer than in that form. Compared with *Agelaius phoeniceus neutralis*, the outline of the culmen is straighter and the bill is larger in all measurements. Compared with *Agelaius phoeniceus sonoriensis*, the bill is slightly longer and very much heavier.

Measurements of type.—Wing, 129.0; tail, 96.5; culmen from base, 25.9; depth at base, 13.6; tarsus, 30.3; middle toe minus claw, 23.3.

Comparative measurements.—

Agelaius phoeniceus nyaritensis.

Seven adult males from Santiago and Tepic, Nyarit, Mexico.

<i>Wing.</i>	<i>Tail.</i>	<i>Culmen from base.</i>	<i>Depth at base.</i>	<i>Tarsus</i>	<i>Middle toe minus claw.</i>
126.0-129.0 (127.6)	93.0-100.5 (96.5)	24.6-26.4 (25.5)	12.5-13.6 (13.0)	30.1-31.4 (30.7)	20.6-23.5 (22.7)

Agelaius phoeniceus sonoriensis.

Forty-five adult males from the Colorado River Valley, California and Arizona.

<i>Wing.</i>	<i>Tail.</i>	<i>Culmen from base.</i>	<i>Depth at base.</i>	<i>Tarsus</i>	<i>Middle toe minus claw.</i>
120.0-130.5 (125.4)	86.3-97.5 (92.8)	22.5-26.9 (24.8)	10.3-12.4 (11.3)	27.5-30.6 (29.5)	20.5-22.5 (21.9)

Agelaius phoeniceus neutralis.

Thirteen adult males from San Diego and Orange Counties, California.

<i>Wing.</i>	<i>Tail.</i>	<i>Culmen from base.</i>	<i>Depth at base.</i>	<i>Tarsus</i>	<i>Middle toe minus claw.</i>
121.0-130.5 (125.5)	86.5-98.5 (92.0)	22.3-24.1 (23.2)	11.4-13.3 (12.5)	28.4-31.2 (30.1)	21.0-23.6 (21.9)

Range.—The State of Nyarit, Mexico.

Remarks.—No females of this form have been examined. The males show occasional traces of black on the middle coverts, as do most of the males of far-western subspecies, but the race is essentially of the "*phoeniceus*" or buff-winged type. Mr. Ridgway (*Birds of North and Mid. Amer.*, pt. 2, 1902, p. 337) comments at length on birds from Tepic. He remarks on their similarity to *fortis* in certain features, but finally assigns them to *sonoriensis* with some misgivings. An infinitely larger series of *sonoriensis* than was available to Mr. Ridgway at that time now makes it clear that the Tepic birds are not referable to that race. Instead, their affinities lie decidedly with the heavy-billed group, which includes *arctolegus*, *fortis*, *neutralis*, etc.

For many courtesies in furnishing comparative material of critical value in connection with our studies of the *Agelaius* group, and for the privilege of naming this form, we are doubly indebted to Dr. E. W. Nelson, Chief, Bureau of Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.